Bucks

To
The Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my eleventh Annual Report upon the health of the inhabitants and sanitary conditions of your town; the period covered being the year 1907.

In doing this I shall have a few remarks to make which may not quite fall in with the wishes of some of you, (I am referring to the appointment of Sanitary Inspector which we shall deal with later). It is, however, a matter to which I have given a considerable amount of thought for some time and it seems to me that now the time has come when it is my duty to speak freely, tell you what my ideas are and then leave the matter in your hands.

With these few introductory remarks I will now deal with each subject as it arises under the different headings as laid down by the Local Government Board.

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF DISTRICT.

As I went into this matter fully in my last Report I can see no useful purpose to be served in repeating what I then said. You as a Council probably know as much or even more than I do on the subject and as far as the Local Government Board and County Council are concerned they will I trust not take it as an act of discourtesy on my part if I refer them to what I then said.

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II. OCCUPATION OF THE INHABITANTS.

By far the largest portion of the inhabitants are engaged in the manufacture of boots, while woodenware goods,

brushes, printing works, laundries &c., account for many more.

During my journey round the various factories and workshops I collected as near as I could the number of hands employed in each trade in the town.

Roughly they are as follows: -

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boots | 675 | 134 | 809 |
| Woodenware | 178 | 1 | 179 |
| Brushes | 105 | 174 | 279 |
| Printing Works | 104 | 21 | 125 |
| Laundries | 7 | 56 | 63 |
| Brace Manufactory | 7 | 14 | 21 |

INFLUENCE OF ANY PARTICULAR OCCUPATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is as far as I can see no industry carried on in the town that is dangerous to health. During my inspection I have again tried to impress upon the workers that fresh air is one of the necessaries of good health but I am sorry to say that I am afraid with very poor results. Undoubtedly the chief sinners in this particular are the boot operatives. One can scarcely go into a single Factory in the town where boots are made without at least feeling sorry for those who have to work in such an atmosphere.

I am told that the reason of this is that the leather works better when it is warm, but why it should be necessary, in order to get heat to dispense with a reasonable amount of Oxygen and fill the place with Carbonic Acid Gas is beyond me.

I am positive that, after a time, if one could only in some way or other insist on the windows being opened a

little more that all would benefit, and the very ones who are now crying out against fresh air coming in would be the first to make a stand for it. However one can only advise, others have to put up with the consequences.

III. HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

As far as I can see at present there seems to be a sufficiency of house accommodation in the town. One does now occasionally see a window with the words "To Let" in it which was certainly unusual a few years ago.

I am glad to notice too that this is more the case in the less desirable residences.

I am also pleased to notice the tendency of the inhabitants to choose the residences on the hills in preference to those in the bottom.

Not many years ago it was quite a common thing to find more than one family residing in a house, but one very seldom meets it now. I am constantly coming across cases of overcrowding, but when the inhabitants of the house are all members of one family, unless the case is a very bad one one feels more or less bound to wink at it. Take for instance a working man with a large family and small wages, the things which frequently go together, one usually finds the smaller the wages the bigger the family, what is one to do with them? The man cannot afford to pay more rent so that if you turn the family out of one house you only come across them in another perhaps smaller than the last.

The problem is a difficult one and one the answer to which I am at present unable to give.

2. With regard to the fitness of accommodation this is I think still improving.

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2. With regard to the fitness of accommodation this is I being still improving.

The houses in Waterside which I mentioned last year are gradually emptying and from all appearance when empty no effort is made to let them again.

We were told last year that these were to be all pulled down within the year, but at present nothing has been done in this way.

Unless something is done shortly I shall be compelled to advise you to take the matter up as the condition of these houses which are still occupied is not improving.

3. SUFFICIENCY OF AIR SPACE ABOUT HOUSES.

There is nothing to find fault with in this particular.

4. CLEANLINESS OF SURROUNDINGS.

In dealing with this heading in my last Report you will remember that I drew your attention to the condition of the numerous yards about the town and suggested the advisability of paving these with some impervious material such as asphalte. During the year I have seen no reason to alter my opinion. These yards are not as they should be and never will be in proper sanitary condition until something is done in the matter.

I am quite aware that this is all poor property and probably the landlords do not get a great return for their capital, but surely that is all the more reason why you as a Council should step in. If it were in the High Street you would soon hear of it and what was wanted would probably soon be done because everybody would see the necessity of it, but because it is in a back yard where nobody sees it no steps are taken. I wish again to draw your attention to the matter and trust that this year it may meet with more response.

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4. CLEANLINESS OF SUBCONDITIONS.

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5. SUPERVISION OVER ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS.

This is carried out in a satisfactory manner according to your Bye-laws.

6. HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

No action has been taken under this Act during the twelve months and I am not aware that any is needed.

IV. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

With very few exceptions all the houses in the town are drained into the sewer.

1. CONDITION OF SEWER AND HOUSE DRAINS.

With regard to the condition of the sewer itself I shall be thankful when you can see your way clear to remedy the defects in it. As each spring comes round I dread what may happen, fearing that we may have a repetition of things that existed a few years ago.

That such a condition is not for the good of the community you do not require me to tell you. There has I believe been no addition to the sewer during the last twelve months but considerable additions are now in contemplation. The house drains are, I believe from enquiries I have made, in a fairly satisfactory condition.

2. DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

This is carried to the sewage farm on the boundary of the town where it is treated with lime and aluminiferric the effluent finding its way into the River Chess.

Although many samples of this effluent have been taken during the year there has to the best of my knowledge been no serious complaint made as to its condition.

There was I believe one report made as to the

presence of flocculent material in it but this has I believe been the case for many years. I can myself remember the same complaint being made 10 years ago when I believe you were advised that it was due to the furring up of the pipes and that it was practically impossible to stop it.

With regard to the Farm itself perhaps the less I say about it, for the present, the better. Since I started to write this Report one of His Majesty's Inspectors from the Local Government Board has been down to inspect the Farm and you will no doubt receive his Report in due course. As to what that Report is likely to be I will not surmise, but I trust that if all is not quite as he would wish it, that at least no very serious alteration will be required.

3. POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

I received one notice of pollution of the brook and I visited the same in company with a representative of the Thames Conservancy.

The pollution was apparently due to an escape of oil from the Electric Light Works. The local representative of the Works met us in a good spirit, the nuisance was remedied and I have received no further complaints. Beyond this I have no evidence that any pollution has taken place.

VII. REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This is still collected in the Council's own carts and deposited at a shoot.

I am glad to report the shifting of this shoot from Hivings Hill, where it was a distinct nuisance, to a more distant locality.

I must again impress upon you the advisability of

presence of Freedomist movements in it not that I believe them all alike for some reason. I now equally condemn the communist policy which is [illegible] and which I believe has not yet the force behind it to be a formidable or the place and time is not particularly impossible to make it.

With regard to the Fair Trade movement the issue I am interested in, for the present, the Dominion. Since I started in extra-Dominion [illegible] and [illegible]'s Imperialism from the Canadian Government [illegible] have been slow to indorse the Fair Trade and can scarcely [illegible] the Dominion in [illegible]. In so what that Dominion is likely to be I will not speculate, but I expect that if all we can [illegible] we do [illegible] it, some [illegible] of very active [illegible] will be required.

6. Cultivating an atmosphere [illegible].

I regarded the policy of [illegible] of the [illegible] and I wished [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] of the Dominion Conservatives.

The [illegible] was [illegible] in the [illegible] of the [illegible] Fred the Eleventh Earl [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of using covered carts for this work.

I have had personal experience during the summer months of the dreadful condition of things that exist when open ones are used. The dust from them is terrible. I do not think that I can too strongly emphasise this matter for the sake of all.

VIII. WATER SUPPLY.

The town is almost entirely supplied with water from the Council's own Waterworks. The water is obtained from the chalk beds, and although a trifle hard is of good quality.

One sample has been taken during the year and sub - mitted to the Clinical Research for examination and the report received was all that we could wish.

I would suggest that another sample be submitted for examination.

I do not think that there is any chance of receiving anything but a favourable report, but at the same time the question is frequently asked by would-be inhabitants of the town, "Is the water supply satisfactory" and when such a question is asked it is a distinct advantage to say that it was examined only last March and then found to be quite satis - factory; instead of having to say it was the last time that it was examined but that is two years ago.

The average consumption throughout the year has been 21 gallons per head per diem. There is a more or less con - stant supply throughout the town.

A few months ago I read you a report on the condition of the supply to the Cottage Hospital. I have received no complaint since that time and certainly whatever trouble then

of using [illegible] the [illegible] work.

I have two personal exclamations during the summer months of the [illegible] condition of [illegible] with [illegible] upon which are [illegible]. The [illegible] is [illegible]. I do not think that I may [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible].

VIII. [illegible]

The [illegible] is almost [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]'s [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

existed should be remedied by the action taken by you during the last few months, in determining to continue the High Level main down Waterside, especially for supplying the higher portions of that district.

IX. PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS SUPERVISION.

a. LODGING HOUSES.

These have been visited from time to time. They are ten in number. Each is well kept, every effort being made by the proprietor to fall in with the necessary require - ments laid down for the regulation of such places.

b. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are eight registered and one licensed slaughter houses in the town, these have been visited and are apparently well conducted.

c. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

In consequence of you having adopted during the year 1906 the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 and the Model Byelaws in connection with it, more attention has been paid to these than in the past.

(1) COWSHEDS.

During the year I have visited in company with your Inspector 12 of these. Taking them all round there is not a lot to find fault with. Some of course, are better then others, but there was only one that one could find any great fault with.

The Ventilation and light in all with one exception was good.

Drainage. In three out of the twelve the drainage was all that could be desired.

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IV. PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAS SUPERVISION.

a. LOANING HOUSES.

These have been visited from time to time. They are ten in number. Each is well kept, every effort being made by the proprietor to fall in with the necessary sanitary measures laid down for the prohibition of such places.

b. CLAUDETTE HOUSES.

There are eight registered and one licensed slaughter houses in the town, these have been visited and are generally well conducted.

c. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

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Two were fairly good, that is to say, there was a trench for the liquid to flow but the fall was not as good as it might be. In one the drainage was indifferent. One was bad. There was drainage but the place was in such a mess that nothing could get away.

In five out of the twelve there was practically no drainage at all. Your Inspector has the matter in hand and I have no doubt will see that all these defects are altered before my next visit which will I hope be shortly. Should such not be the case I shall at once bring the matter to your notice and suggest that the necessary steps to enforce the Bye-laws be taken, as there is little use in adopting orders if they are not acted up to.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is satisfactory in most cases but in two or three instances where the sheds are situated on the higher levels there seems to have been a scarcity. In one instance the water having to be carried from the vale.

MILKSHOPS.

This I believe means any room or building in which milk is kept for sale. That is to say any place to which the general public can purchase milk in small quantities.

As far as I can ascertain there are eight of these throughout the town.

With four I have no fault to find. Two are cases in which milk is sold in conjunction with other things, and, although in one instance at any rate I do not consider the surroundings all that could be desired, at present I am unable to satisfy myself that we should be at all safe in taking pro-

ceedings to enforce the cessation.

One was a case in which a building was used away from the house, the place was anything from satisfactory, as in addition to being used as a milk store it was also used as a bicycle and perambulator shed.

Your Inspector at once took the matter in hand and I believe the necessary alterations have been carried out.

The eighth case is one which undoubtedly comes under Bye-law 17 Section 2 Sub-section 7 of the Model Byelaws. It is a case in which the milk is kept in and sold from a back kitchen. I have interviewed the owner, who has promised to see into the matter, so that I trust that it will be settled without having to appeal to you as a Council to take extreme measures.

MILK CARRIERS.

In addition to the foregoing I have also visited the houses of 6 other people who are milk carriers only. In the majority of instances the only trouble was the keeping of cans in the house. All have met me in the matter and provided covered places outside their dwellings with plenty of ventilation.

I would again draw your attention to the fact that, although we have power to see that the necessary precautions against milk contamination are carried out in our own district, there are many who bring milk into our district over whom we have no control, until such time as they get within our boundaries.

I do not wish to make any accusations as from personal knowledge I know nothing but to my mind it seems hard

that our own ratepayers should be put to the expense of making alterations while those outside who are competing with them should be allowed to get off. I think that the Order in this particular is wrong. It should I think come within the power of any Sanitary Official to visit any cowshed from which it is known that milk is imported into his area of control.

However the matter has been brought forward in other districts, and I hope that something will be done in the matter by higher Authorities than ourselves.

BAKEHOUSES.

Fourteen bakehouses have been visited in the district In one case only had I reason to complain, and in this instance the defect has I believe been remedied.

There seems to have been a little misunderstanding with regard to whitewashing. The Act distinctly states that this shall be done twice a year. In the majority of instances it has only been done once. In each case I have found those in charge of the bakehouse willing to fall in with the requirements of the Act.

There are no underground bakehouses in the town.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During the yearI have visited 46 Factories and 40 Workshops as follows: -

| | Factory | Workshop |
|---|---|---|
| Boots | 10 | 7 |
| Brushes | 4 | 2 |
| Woodenware | 10 | 4 |
| Printing Works | 2 | |
| Building Material | 3 | 2 |
| Laundries | 1 | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | 15 | 25 |

During my visits I have had to complain of the following -

| | |
|---|---|
| Copy of the Act not put up | 1 |
| Copy of Act up but not filled in | 3 |
| Lime washing not done | 15 |
| Absence of Sanitary accommodation | 2 |
| Bad ventilation | 1 |
| Sanitary accommodation unsatisfactory | 3 |
| Over-crowding | 1 |
| Indifferent escape in case of fire | 3 |

No notice was served in any of these cases, as in each case the occupier promised me that he would have the matter attended to as to whether or no such will be the case remains to be proved. In one of the cases in which there was a total absence of sanitary accommodation I was informed that one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories had let the matter pass as all the men employed were residing in the immediate neighbourhood, and they had all permission to go home in case of necessity. Under these circumstances I took no action.

Two certificates as to suitable accommodation for escape in case of fire have been granted, while another has been applied for but is at present being withheld.

One complaint as to accommodation for escape in case of fire has been received, but on enquiry all was found to be satisfactory and no action was taken in the matter.

OUTWORKERS.

During this year 13 lists of out-workers have been received, which include the names of 122 out workers

I do not consider that your officers receive the help from factory owners that they might in the carrying out of this particular section of the Act. The lists are sent in very irregularly and the addresses given in many instances are anything but clear. For instance one will receive a list such as this "Mrs Jones of Newtown". How on earth your officers are to find out which particular house in the whole of New Town Mrs Jones resides in I cannot think. When you speak to the employer of labour on the point he seems just as ignorant as you are in the matter.

I would suggest that you as a Council might pass a Resolution to the effect that if these lists are not sent in regularly with the proper names and full addresses, that proceedings will be taken in the matter. I can quite believe that it is a matter of want of thought there is little doubt but that each employer of labour has plenty to do without, as I daresay he would term it, messing about over these matters, but it is part of the Act which your officers have to see carried out, and making the fulfilment of the duty difficult for them won't do away with that duty.

X. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are six elementary schools in your district. These have been inspected from time to time. In the case of Townsend Road School, it has been brought to my notice that the sanitary accommodation is not what it should be.

At the time I visited there was certainly an obnoxious smell in the neighbourhood of the entrance to the Infants' department. Not wishing to be thought to be interfering in a department which is not directly under my control, I will only

add that I shall be glad to help in this matter or any other if approached by the Managers in the matter.

The Infant department of the Schools have been closed owing to an outbreak of measles.

XI. I am appending the reports of your Sanitary Inspector That of your late Inspector Mr James Weatherbed, comprises the time from January to June 23rd, and Mr Dyson, your present Inspector, is answerable for the one from that date up to the end of the year.

XII. Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.

During the year 25 cases of infectious diseases have been dealt with. Of this number 17 were isolated in their own houses, while 8 were taken to the Infectious diseases Hospital. This has resulted in the opening of the Hospital on two occasions. In March when two cases of Scarlet Fever were taken in and again in August when six cases of the same disease were admitted.

With regard to those isolated in their own homes. I have not traced the disease in a single instance from one house to another. During the year I have received 25 notifications under the infectious diseases Notification Act made up as follows -

| | |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 17 |
| Erysipelas | 4 |
| Diphtheria | 3 |
| Enteric Fever | 1 |

The following table gives the number of each disease notified during the last 10 years and the average for 10 years.

| | Diphtheria | Erysipelas | Enteric Fever | Puerperal Fever | Scarlet Fever | Croup | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1897 | | 6 | | | 4 | | 10 |
| 1898 | 1 | 10 | 3 | | 19 | | 33 |
| 1899 | | 6 | 1 | | 13 | | 20 |
| 1900 | 3 | 12 | 1 | | 19 | | 35 |
| 1901 | 3 | 11 | | | 49 | | 63 |
| 1902 | 1 | 11 | 2 | | 9 | 1 | 24 |
| 1903 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 167 | | 175 |
| 1904 | 6 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 69 | | 93 |
| 1905 | 9 | 8 | | | 11 | | 28 |
| 1906 | 3 | 6 | 4 | | 4 | | 17 |
| Total | 28. | 90 | 13 | 2. | 364. | 1 | 498. |
| Average | 2.8 | 9. | 1.3 | .2 | 36.4 | .1 | 49.8. |
| 1907 | 3. | 4 | 1 | | 17 | | 25 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

From this it will be seen that although our number of notifications is slightly higher than last year the total is far below the average for the last 10 years.

It will be noticed that during the last ten years there has been a complete absence of small-pox in the district; let us all hope that this will continue. As to what will happen in the event of an outbreak of this disease in Chesham, I dread to think. The number of children unvaccinated is increasing monthly and with this path made easy for so-called conscientious objectors there is little doubt but that they will continue to do so. I am well aware that it does not lie in your power to alter the present state of things but it seems to me a duty that I, as Medical Officer, owe to the town to point this matter out. There are some even among your own body who I know will not agree with me in this matter, and I only mention it in order that when the time comes as I feel sure it must, that it should not be said of me, if the thing was so serious why did you not tell us.

I know it has been said that we of the Medical profession stand up for vaccination because we make something out of it. I think I can honestly say that if so-called compulsory vaccination were done away with to-day that it would not make 5/- difference to me at the end of the year, and in the face of this I urge all who have the welfare of the town at heart to do what they can to make it known that there is something in it. In the event of any other trouble in which you think that your medical adviser can help you, you are quite willing to go to him for advice and if he says I should advise so and so, you say, Well Dr, the case is in your hands if you think it is for the best it must be done, and yet in

this particular instance where the result may mean so much to future generations, if not to your own, everything that is possible to be done to oppose him seems to be done.

In the event of Diphtheria, Rabes, Tetanus, or any kindred diseases making its appearance you are quite willing then to leave the matter in his hands, and will allow him to use the necessary serum to fight the disease, and the things are quite on a par, the only difference being that in the case of the diseases which I have enumerated, you are trying to shut the stable door when the horse has already broken his halter while in vaccination you are shutting the door before he does so.

I am not one, who, when a person has an honest con - scientious objection to a thing would force him to it; but I ask you how many are there who are at present obtaining certi- ficates who really understand the subject. Is it not rather that they object to the inconvenience of looking after the child during the few days that the child is under treatment.

However having said what I have, I consider that I have done my duty to the town, at anyrate I have eased my conscience, and if affidavits continue to roll in I can only say I have done my best, and in the event of an outbreak of smallpox occurring I can only promise you that I will do my best to stamp it out, and my opponents must forgive me if at the end of the time I make use of the expression "I told you so."

I wish again to draw your attention to the absence of a public mortuary in your town. Personally I consider it a disgrace that in the event of a dead body being found within

I wish again to [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

your boundaries that the only place to take it to is the stable of the nearest Inn. As to the condition of things so often found of medical men being compelled to hold post-mortem examinations in a small bedroom of a cottage with no means of carrying off the superfluous liquid this thing is more it is a public danger.

Where does the logic of the argument come in? you make all sorts of restrictions with regard to slaughterhouses, and yet in a case where there is something going on which is far worse than takes place in any slaughterhouse (there at least the carcase is dressed as soon as death has taken place) you take no steps to protect the public.

I do not think that it is possible for me to put this matter too strongly before you. I have mentioned it many times before, when no action has been taken in the matter, I trust that this time the matter will at least receive your consideration. I am not asking you for an extensive building. All I want is a small room 10x12 ft. tucked away in some corner out of sight with a slate slab impervious and drained floor and connected with the sewer and water.

**POPULATION.**

Last year I estimated your population at 7,776, I now make it 7,857, an increase of 81 which is a much smaller increase than last year which was 130.

**DEATH RATE.** The number of deaths registered during the year is 87 which is about the average 87.5 for the last 10 years, it is however an increase of 13 in our figures of last year.

bipdi

The following is the return for each month -

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 6 | July | 7 |
| February | 7 | August | 3 |
| March | 8 | September | 6 |
| April | 9 | October | 7 |
| May | 7 | November | 8 |
| June | 9 | December | 10 |

If we take the death rate of the town itself, it works out at 11.0 which is considerably higher than last year 9.5

The net death rate which included all persons belonging to Chesham, who have died in institutions outside the town but omit those who have died in the town who really belong to other districts works out at 12.4 with 98 deaths.

This also compares unfavourably with our figures of last year when there were 81 deaths with a net death rate of 12.4.

The increase in the death rate is in a great measure due to the number of premature births that have taken place during the year, no less than 12 being registered.

Of the deaths registered 21 have been those of children under one year of age, which is an increase of 2 on last years figures.

This gives us an Infant death rate of 116.6 which is higher than it has been since 1901. This death rate of infants is certainly higher than it should be. Personally I think it is in a great measure due to the way in which the little ones are kept in hot stuffy kitchens instead of being taken into the fresh air. I try to impress upon mothers that

The following is the rainfall for each month -

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 3 | July | 7 |
| February | 7 | August | 5 |
| March | 8 | September | 6 |
| April | 4 | October | 7 |
| May | 7 | November | 6 |
| June | 9 | December | 10 |

If we find the total rainfall of the year (which is [illegible] we find it to be [illegible] inches and [illegible] T.

The [illegible] rainfall [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

nature never meant their children to be kept in hot stuffy rooms or it would not have put the amount of oxygen in the air that exists, but would rather have raised the temperature and included all those impurities that exist in a highly heated and badly ventilated room.

I am certain of this fact that if only mothers would take a little more care in feeding their infants, ventilating their rooms, and taking the children out once or twice a day, not into a neighbour's house, the atmosphere of which is probably much the same as their own, but into the open air, if possible away from the town, we should have much less sickness and consequently fewer deaths among our children.

The figures speak for themselves, let us take them for this year only. The first year of a child's life when the poor little thing cannot go out without being carried we have 21 deaths, after that from one to five when the little ones can begin to toddle and find their own way out our number of deaths is reduced from 21 to 5.

Of the deaths from all diseases I wouldd raw your attention to the following as compared with the four previous years.

| | 1903 | 1904 | 1905 | 1906 | 1907 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phthisis | 8 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 7 |
| Other Tubercular diseases | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Cancer | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| Influenza | | | 10 | 6 | 2 |

BIRTH RATE. The number of births registered during each month of the year is as follows -

nature never meant their children to be kept in the stuffy rooms or it would not have put the amount of oxygen in the air that exists, but would rather have raised the temperature and included all those imperfections that exist in a highly heated and badly ventilated room.

I am certain of this fact that if only mothers would take a little more care in feeding their infants, ventilating their rooms, and taking the children out doors or twice a day, not into a [illegible] house, the atmosphere of which is probably much the same as their own, but into the open air, if possible away from the town, we should have much less sickness and consequently fewer deaths among our children.

The figures speak for themselves, let me take them for this year only. The first year of a child's life when the poor little thing cannot be out without being carried we have 21 deaths, after that from one to five when the little mind can begin to toddle and find their own way out our number of deaths is reduced from 21 to 8.

Of the deaths from all diseases I enclosure your attention to the following as compared with the four previous years.

| | 1901 | 1904 | 1905 | 1906 | 1907 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Phthisis | 8 | 4 | 15 | 6 | 7 |
| Other Tubercular diseases | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer | 8 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Influenza | | | 10 | 0 | 2 |

BIRTH RATE. The number of births registered during each month of the year is as follows -

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| February | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| March | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| April | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| May | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| June | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| July | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| August | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| September | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| October | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| November | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| December | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| | 100 | 80 | 180 |

Our total number of births registered throughout the year is therefore 180, which is 31 less than last year, and gives a birth rate of 22.9 as against 27.1 last year and the average of 25.6 for the last 10 years.

The number of illegitimate children born during the year in the town has been 12.

I would now take you back to the beginning of my Report and ask your attention for a few minutes longer to a subject which I then mentioned, I refer to the present condition of making an appointment in the dual capacity of Sanitary and Water Inspector. I am certain of one thing, that it is a matter of complete impossibility for one man to perform these two offices satisfactorily. One or other office is sure to suffer and when one takes into consideration that there is

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| February | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| March | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| April | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| May | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| June | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| July | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| August | 8 | 8 | 17 |
| September | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| October | 11 | 2 | 14 |
| November | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| December | 8 | 14 | 21 |
| | 100 | 60 | 160 |

Our total number of births registered throughout the year is therefore 160, which is 21 less than last year, and gives a birth rate of 23.9 as against 27.1 last year and the average of 23.6 for the last 10 years.

The number of illegitimate children been losing for year 46 the loan has been 18.

I would not take you back to the beginning of my Report and ask your attention for a few minutes longer to a subject which I then mentioned, I refer to the present demolition of making an appointment in the dual capacity of Sanitary and Water Inspector. I am certain of one thing, that it is a matter of complete impossibility for one man to perform these two offices satisfactorily. One to other office is sure to suffer and then one takes into consideration that there is

an actual cash value placed upon the one (the water Inspector) it is not difficult to see which you as a body of business men are going to look after and require efficiency in. Take for instance an ordinary house, water costs money for pumping and therefore if there is any damage to the water pipes, that must be attended to, or the pumping returns will go up, but who is there that ever takes the trouble to ask how many badly ventilated houses or leaky drains the Inspector has found during the month.

I make the statement after much thought, and knowing that I shall probably bring down a good deal of disfavour upon myself, that the duties of the Sanitary Inspector are not carried out as they should be in a town of this size, and I do not consider that it is the fault of the man who is supposed to perform them, as I am sure he does his best. There is no doubt to my mind, that he has not the time to devote to them. Take for instance a slaughter house, how often under existing circumstances can he inspect them, at the outside I suppose once or twice a quarter; what on earth is the good of that when there is killing going on once or twice a week. It is not the slaughter house that wants looking after, it is what leaves the slaughter house. Will the fact that he hears that there was a carcase which was tubercular sent out as good meat a month or less ago help in the preven - tion of the sale of it. I have no actual case in my mind but am constantly being told of what might have been stopped if only the officer would be a bit more sharp on such things.

Of course in this particular instance the ideal way

an actual cash value placed upon the one (the water inspector) it is not difficult to see which you as a body of business men are going to look after and require efficiency in. Take for instance or officers house, water costs money for pumping and therefore if there is any damage in the water pipes, that must be attended to, or the pumping returns will be up, but who is there that ever takes the trouble to ask how many badly ventilated houses or leaky drains the inspector has found during the month.

I make the statement after much thought, and thinking that I shall probably bring down a good deal of discussion upon myself, that the duties of the Sanitary Inspector are now carried out as they should be in a time of this size, and I am not considered that it is the fault of the man who is supposed to perform them, as I am sure he does his best. There is no doubt in my mind, that he has not the time to devote to them. Take for instance a slaughter house, how often under existing circumstances can be inspect them, at the outside I suppose once or twice a quarter; what on earth is the good of that when there is killing going on once or twice a week. It is not the slaughter house that wants looking after, it is what forms the slaughter house. Will the fact that he hears that there was a decrease which was inherently sent out on good meat a month or less the help in the prevention of the sale of it. I have no actual case in my mind but we constantly being told of what might have been stopped if only the officer would be a bit more sharp on such things.

Of course in this particular instance the level was

of doing things would be to do away with the numerous private slaughter houses throughout the town, and have a common slaughter house which the Inspector could have under observa - tion, but the time is not at present ripe for such measures, but surely it is our duty if we cannot have the best to make the best of what we have. I am not having a cut at the butchers the same applies to all places over which the Council has power. We are all more or less selfish and if a thing is to affect our pocket we cannot be expected to look at it in the same light as an outsider would. A man buys a beast which looks alright, and gives perhaps a large sum of money for it. He cannot be expected to look upon the presence of tubercular glands in it in the same serious manner as the Inspector who goes in and only looks at it from a public health point of view without thinking of how the loss is to be made good. Look too at the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops Order which you adopted last year how is that to be carried out as it should be. Regulation 17, Section 5 says that the cow keeper - "shall not suffer any cow belonging to him or under his care "or control to be milked for the purpose of obtaining milk "for sale -

(a) unless at the time of milking the udder and teats of such cow are thoroughly clean: and

(b) unless the hands of the persons milking such cow, also are thoroughly clean and free from all infection and contamination.

How is a man who inspects once or twice a year to make sure of such a thing as that. To carry out that properly the cowsheds should be inspected at least once a week at the

of having taken place in an de ring with the numerous physic electric or lunar surroundings the idea, and have a common electrical cause which the instrument merely turns under observation, but now then it not as irrevocably clear for much documents, but merely it is our duty if we account some the best to make the best of what we have. I am not looking a not at the business the have activity in all places over which the Council has power. We are all more or less neutral and if a point, is in either not merely we cannot be accepted up even if it is the most (left) in an existing-mission. A man have a least which leave limits, and this virtue a little can at most be in manner be expect to load into the chamber of commerce planes in it in the same circumstances occurs in the industry and what in our only leave at it time a quite [illegible] not without [illegible] at the time the is in a more good. Use the of the [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] their with and adopted that time for it [illegible] is [illegible] not as it should be. Regulations of, [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] should not either any the [illegible] in [illegible] or [illegible] the [illegible] or [illegible] to be [illegible] for the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] -

(a) [illegible] is the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible];

(b) [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

The [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

time of milking.

However, here again I have had my say, I trust that I have made myself clear and you all understand my meaning, so I must now leave the matter in your hands.

I do trust, however, that if you wish the work done properly, as I believe you do, that you will see your way clear to separate these two appointments and appoint a man to do each duty.

During the twelve months that have passed, I, as your Medical Officer have received substantial evidence that at least you do not think badly of me, for this I thank you. Thanking you for your aupport in the past and trusting that during the twelve months which we are entering upon may be as pleasant as those which are just passed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Thomas H Long,

Mr H. Chisham UDC.

time of mailing.

However, more again I have had no way, I trust that I have made myself clear and you all understand my meaning, as I must not leave the matter in your hands.

I do trust, however, that if you wish the work done properly, as I believe you do, that you will see your way clear to appoint these two appointments and appoint a man to do each duty.

During the twelve months that have passed, I, as your Medical Officer have received substantial evidence that we trust you do not think badly of me, for this I thank you. Thanking you for your support in the past and trusting that during the twelve months which we are entering upon may be as pleasant as those which are just passed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The six months ending June 23rd 1907.

-------oooOooo-------

| | |
|---|---|
| Preliminary Notices served for the abatement of nuisances | 6 |
| Notices served by order of the Council | 3 |
| Nuisances investigated | 84 |
| Premises disinfected | 9 |
| Water Tests applied to drains etc. | 13 |
| Smoke Tests do. do. | 4 |
| Cases of Infectious diseases notified and investigated | |
| Summary proceedings instituted under the P.H. Acts | 0 |

15 Bakehouses, 9 Slaughterhouses (1 licensed and 8 registered) and 2 Common Lodging houses, have been periodically inspected and cleansed.

S U M M A R Y  O F  N U I S A N C E S.

| | |
|---|---|
| Defective ventilation pipes | 12 |
| " sanitary appliances | 4 |
| " eaves gutters and fall pipes | 10 |
| " floors | 4 |
| " roofs | 2 |
| Choked drains | 11 |
| Dilapidated premises | 6 |
| Offensive accumulations | 6 |
| Dirty premises | 12 |
| Premises not drained | 6 |
| Absence of manure pits | 4 |
| Carried forward | 77 |

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The six months ending June 30rd 1907.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Preliminary notices served for the abatement of nuisances | 4 |
| Notices served by order of the Council | 3 |
| Nuisances investigated | 24 |
| Premises disinfected | 8 |
| Water Tests applied to drains etc. | 11 |
| Smoke Tests " " " | 6 |
| Cases of Infectious Diseases notified and investigated | |
| Summary proceedings instituted under the F.M. Act | 6 |

14 Pressnoses, 3 Fleughterhouses (1 licensed and 4 registered) and 2 common lodging houses, have been periodically inspected and cleansed.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Defective ventilation pipes | 12 |
| " sanitary appliances | 4 |
| " water closets and fall pipes | 10 |
| " floors | 4 |
| " roofs | 2 |
| Choked drains | 11 |
| Dilapidated premises | 6 |
| Offensive accumulations | 4 |
| Dirty premises | 11 |
| Premises not drained | 6 |
| Absence of ensure pits | 6 |
| Carried forward | 77 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Brought forward | 77 |
| Dirty bedding | 1 |
| Premises without eaves gutters and F. pipes | 2 |
| Overcrowding | 4 |
| Total | 84 |

One sample of water was taken from LL Reservoir during March 1907.

| | |
|---|---|
| Grounds Factors | 77 |
| Fuzzy readings | 1 |
| Pressure without review procedure and P. [illegible] | 2 |
| Evaluations | 4 |
| Total | 84 |

The results of which are [illegible] in Appendix [illegible] during Years 1967-

SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT

ending December 31st 1907

-------oooOooo-------

Systematic Inspections have been made of the whole of the District with a view to ascertaining what Nuisances exist.

44 Notices have been served for Sanitary and Drainage defects about dwellings.

1 Notice for stable without means of drainage.

25 Drains have been submitted to the Water Test.

2 Drains have been submitted to the Smoke test.

The Common Lodging Houses have been duly visited and were found to be clean and well kept.

An Inspection has been made of all the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops with a view to carrying out the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1888.

3 Statutory Notices have been served for dwellings in such a state as to be a nuisance and injurious to health.

All the Bakehouses have been duly visited, some were found to require lime-washing and repairs, such work having now been carried out.

All the Slaughter houses have been visited and on the whole the cleansing and lime-washing had been carried out. The structural condition of some was all that could be desired, but in others there was much room for improvement.

Under the Factory and Workshop Act 1901. A good number of the workshops have been visited.

# SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT

## Ending December 31st 1907

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Systematic Inspections have been made of the whole of the District with a view to ascertaining what Sanitary Units.

An Outdoor Staff have served for Sanitary and Drainage defects about Dwellings.

1 Notice for Sanitary without Means of Drainage.

22 Drains have been submitted to the Water Test.

2 Drains have been submitted to the Smoke test.

The Common Lodging Houses have been duly visited and were found to be clean and well kept.

An Inspection has been made of all the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops with a view to carrying out the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1903.

3 Statutory Notices have been served for Dwellings in such a state as to be a nuisance and injurious to health.

All the Bakehouses have been duly visited, some were found to require lime-washing and repairs, such work having has been carried out.

All the Slaughter houses have been visited and on the whole the cleansing and lime-washing had been carried out. The structural condition of some was all that could be desired, but in others there was much room for improvement.

Under the Factory and Workshop Act 1907. A good number of the workshops have been visited.

1 Notice was served for over-crowding.

1 " " " requiring lime-washing and cleansing.

1 " " " defective Sanitary accommodation

Lists of out-workers have been received and where such outworkers reside in other districts the Sanitary Authority of such districts has been duly notified.

A weekly inspection is made of the following places-

Townfield Yard

Hearns Yard

Chequers Yard

Lums Yard

Star Yard

Waggon and Horse Yard

Coxes Yard

Duck Alley Yard

10 houses have been disinfected after removal or recovery after Infectious cases.

The Council continue to supply disinfectants for use to drains and water-closets from the Council Yard every Saturday morning from 10 to 12 noon.

Fires are lit in the Infectious Hospital during damp and inclement weather.

A very large number of Notices have been served upon occupiers of dwellings, giving warning against depositing house refuse on lands adjoining.

(Signed) JOHN DYSON

Inspector of Nuisances.